

## Message Text

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72-60

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SCS-03 EB-11 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 PM-07

NSC-10 COME-00 SCA-01 RSR-01 /087 W

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R 271947Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4448

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR CPRS BF

SUBJ: SEIZED BOATS AND PLANES

REF: (A) NASSAU A-134; (B) WAUCHOPE-GROENEWEG LETTER 7/3/73

1. REF A OUTLINED PROBLEMS ARISING FROM GCOB SEIZURES OF U.S. RENTED AND CHARTERED VESSELS AND AIRCRAFT SUBSEQUENTLY USED FOR ILLEGAL TRANSPORT OF MARIJUANA.

2. EMBASSY HAS RECENTLY LEARNED THAT GCOB CABINET HAS DECIDED TO DEAL WITH THESE PROBLEMS BY CONSTITUTING A CIVIL SERVICE-LEVEL COMMITTEE TO DECIDE ON DISPOSITION OF SUCH BOATS AND PLANES AND THE CHARGES TO BE LEVIED AGAINST THE OWNERS. COMMITTEE REPORTEDLY IS COMPOSED OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE FINANCE MINISTRY, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, POLICE AND CUSTOMS.

3. EMBASSY HAS ALSO BEEN INFORMED PRIVATELY THAT COMMITTEE HAS MADE ITS FIRST DECISION, WHICH CONCERNS SEIZED YACHTS "CARISSA ANN" AND "SEA CLOUD" MENTIONED REF A. ITS DECISION IS TO RELEASE VESSELS TO INNOCENT U.S. OWNERS ON PAYMENT OF STORAGE FEES WHICH, IT IS ESTIMATED, WILL TOTAL LESS THAN DOLS 3,000 PER BOAT.

4. THE COMMITTEE ACTION OUTLINED PRECEDING PARAGRAPH IS NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FINAL, SINCE IT APPARENTLY MUST BE RATIFIED BY AT LEAST ONE

MINISTER, EXTAFFMIN PAUL ADDERLEY. FINMIN HANNA HAS ALREADY APPROVED THE DECISION. IF MINISTERIAL RATIFICATION IS NECESSARY IN ALL FUTURE CASES, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THIS NEW PROCEDURE WILL BE VERY SPEEDY. APPARENT EFFORT IS BEING MADE, HOWEVER, TO DE-POLITICIZE THIS TYPE OF CASE BY PLACING AT LEAST INITIAL ACTION AT TECHNICAL LEVEL. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THE NEW COMMITTEE APPROACH WILL ONLY BE UTILIZED, APPARENTLY, IF THE COURT TRYING THE NARCOTICS OFFENDERS REFRAINS FROM SIMULTANEOUSLY CONFISCATING THE BOAT OR PLANE USED TO COMMIT THE OFFENSE.

5. EMBASSY HAS NOTIFIED THE COUNSEL FOR THE "CARISSA ANN" OWNERS AND THE OWNER (FRED DAVANT) OF "SEA CLOUD" OF THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION IN THEIR CASES, TAKING CARE TO STRESS, HOWEVER, THAT DECISION NOT YET FINAL.  
SPEAR

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**TAGS:** SNAR, CPRS, BF  
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